

# Euclid to invest millions into water systems

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The city of Euclid will invest at a minimum \$104 million into wastewater sewer management in order to meet compliance standards set forth by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

The most expensive option on the table is closer to \$150 million and would provide newer technology for water treatment that has the potential for long-term savings, although officials are just starting to look into those details.

The EPA's standards are set to improve the water

quality of the United States and keep pollutants at a minimum. Those pollutants include untreated water that overflows from combined sewer systems during heavy rain.

Euclid's current facilities are not able to handle the flow of water in those situations. When that happens, the city's Wet Weather Treatment Plant activates, and water passing through is only partially treated, not fully before it is discharged to the lake.

Last year because of heavy rainfall, the city discharged 2 billion gallons of partially treated water into the lake.

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The News-Herald

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"If we can increase the (main) plant's capacity to 66 million gallons per day then those numbers of days where the bypass facility would activate are less," Law Director Chris Frey said.

While grant funding might become available to complete the projects, the majority of the bill will be paid by ratepayers, Frey said.

A public work session was held Wednesday night by members of coun-

cil, engineers working on behalf of the city for this project as well as legal representation related to the project.

The scope of work is large, with the city on a 10- to 15-year timeline to reach full compliance, and penalties are steep from the U.S. EPA if those standards are not met.

For example, if a particular violation occurs the city would be charged a \$1,000 fee for the first day, and it would escalate as time passed.

The city has already made some of the improvements that will become necessary but awaits approval from the EPA

for their long-term control plan.

A list of six alternatives are before the city with specific details of project plans, some of which would require residential land to be acquired to build or upgrade facilities.

Commercial land also will be affected when regulations regarding runoff water are put into place, another directive from the EPA.

A conference call is scheduled between engineers and the EPA for March 1, and council hopes to have more information and guidance on the next step from the EPA, at that point.